

Statement of Basis
for
Modification of Permit No. ST 6129
Shell Solar Industries LP, Vancouver, WA.
January 2003

Ecology issued this permit to the previous owner, Siemens Solar Industry LP, on May 23, 2001 and it became effective July 1, 2001. The permit is set to expire June 30, 2003. The term of this current permit is much shorter than the usual five years, in an effort to coordinate all permits in the Columbia Gorge watershed.

Shell submitted a request for increased flow limits with their permit renewal application received by Ecology on June 3, 2002. Shell has substantial need for the increased flow limits, because of production increases due to increased market demand for their solar panels, which utilize wafers cuts from the ingots produced at the Vancouver facility. Since the regularly scheduled permit renewal will not go into effect until July 2003, a modification of the current permit was the most expeditious way to grant the requested flow increase. Necessary changes are as follows. First, the owner has changed. Second, due to continued expansion of production to keep pace with market demand, effluent flow rates have increased, to the point that the current permit limits are too restrictive. The Hazel Dell Sewer District has acknowledged and approved the request for increased flow limits.

Therefore, the proposed modification addresses the following issues:

- Increase the permit limit for monthly average flow from 45,000 gallons per day to 80,000 gallons per day.
- Increase the permit limit for maximum daily flow from 55,000 gallons per day to 100,000 gallons per day.
- Update facility name from Siemens Solar Industries to Shell Solar Industries, LP.

Following this modification, the Shell permit will be reauthorized for a full five year cycle, beginning July 1, 2003.